ATELLOFAX . CLASSIFICATION COLUMNIAL CD NO. DATE DISTR. 20 OCT 50 COUNTRY Germany (Russian %one) no. Of pages 📑 3 SUBJECT Election for Parliament and Activities of the National Front NO. OF ENCLS. PLACE 25X1 **ACQUIRED** SUPPLEMENT TO DATE OF 25X1 REPORT NO. INFO. THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS HYPERISTICS AFFECTION THE HATIGHAL DEFRAGE OF THE UNITED STATES CHYCHE YEE HEARING OF THE EDVICAGES ACT OF 15. C., 21 AND 22. AS ARRINGED, 175 TERMOGLOGICH OF THE OF THE CONTENTS IS ARY MANUFACT TO AN UNANTROPHEN OF THE HEISTED BY AM. REPRODUCTION OF THIS PAGE IS PROBLEMED. THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION Elections of the People's Chamber in the Soviet Zone on 15 October 195). 25X1 1. Even though the Soviet Zone electrate will be presented with only a single ticket at the elections for the Puple's Chumber (Volkskammer) on 15 October 1950, the political leadership has decided that the internal and external political interests of their government will be served best if the various paties represented on the ticket conduct separate election valltes to endorse the universal ticket. By that means, at least, the outward appearance of an election campaign will be maintaired. 2. On election day the voters will have the chance of voting either "Yes" or "No" on their ballots, i.e., they can either accept the unity ticket or reject it in toto; they have no other choic:. The bour eois parties are encountering considerable difficulties in filling the raitions assigned them on the universal ticket because very few of their me ers are willing to accept notination. The general apathy of the bourgeoisie oward political parties is also apparent by the extreme tardiness in payment of dues. The resultant lack of cash has in some cases necessitated the cutting of regular employees off the payroll or at least deferring their salary payment. For the moment the secrecy of the elections seems assured. Withem Koenen, first chairman of the secretariat of the National Front, stated it a recent meeting that the coming election: would be "truly democratic", and that their "secrecy must be assured at all cost". Propaganda from Western Germany concerning the election should comme we in but not too soon. It should encourage the elec-25X1 ample time torate to vote "No", but to be extractly careful that the cross on the allot does not extend beyond the circle provided for the purpose. As in the list election, any additional mark on the ballot will probably be evaluated contrary to the intention of the voter. A artificial inflation of the "Yes" voter, through carelessness, should be stoided. Absenteeism should be strongly viscouraged because, on the one hand, it could have unpleasant consequences in the non-voter, and, on the other han!, under the prevailing system, it implies ; tacit approval of the proposed licket. TTAL CLASSIFICATION CONFIDER DISTRIBUTION STATE NAVY NSRB This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the 25X1

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- 6. The DDR government has also taken steps to insure that the new congress will be homogeneous. It has been decreed that after 15 October there will be no more majority votes in the Soviet Zone parliaments; all decisions will be made unanimously. Any possible disagreements will be ironed out in committee meetings beforehand.
- 7. Selection of candidates for the election 25X

National Front Organization and Activities.

- 8. The National Front is organizationally divided into six-state committees, (including the City of Berlin), 160 Kreis committees, and 1400 local committees. At the head of the organization is a N ational Council, consisting of 89 m embers (1). Superseding the council in authority is a seven-man secretariat. In all echelons, the seats are distributed among the recognized political parties and the so-called mass organizations according to a prearranged key, but the leadership and decisive membership is, in each case, exclusively in the hands of the SED.
- 9. The LDP has been allotted eight seats in the National Council (2); they are occupied by:

Dr. Karl Hamann, Borlin, President of the LDF in the Soviet Zone.
Frau Dr. Wilhelmine Schirmer-Pröscher, Berlin, also a functionary in the
DFB (German Women's League, and SED front organization) and a
member of the Reople's Congress (Soviet Zone Legislature).

Frau Rodel, Potsdam

Richter, Schwerin Frau Dr. Bruch, Dresden

Koncack, city councilor and head of the economic office of the City of Drecden.

Dr. Hans Loch, Erfurt, Minister of Finance of the DDR. Kamps, Halle, member of the cabinet in Saxony-Anhalt.

Until recently Professor Dr. Hermann Kastner, one-time holder of various minister portfolios in Saxony, was chairman of the council. When he was eliminated from the political field in the East Zone, Dr. Hamann took his place and was in turn succeeded in his former position by Guenter Stempel, former general secretary of the secretariat of the National Front. A few days after assumption of his new office, Stempel was arrested (3).

- 10. The state Secretariats of the National F_r ont are no longer run by three co-equal members. It was found that the arrangement encouraged mutual shirking of responsibility and "passing the buck". In the future, one chairman will be appointed as chief. He is to carry all responsibility and be selected according to his ability rather than his party membership.
- 11. The training school at Bantikov, Mccklenburg, seems to function well. The "Professors" lecture on one subject for about two and a half hours. Thereafter the students are divided into prearranged groups of ten and continue discussion of the topic under the guidance of a semin ar instructor. The latter are, of course, excellently trained SBD men. Any one found wanting in ability or enthusiasm during these discussion periods is expelled from the school. The method results in a very high caliber of graduates.

The National Congress

12. a. The National Front was to conduct its first National Congress starting
25 August 1950, in the Scelenbinder hall in Berlin. The Congress was
to consist of 3000 delegates, 1200 of which were to come from the Soviet
Zone and 1800 from Western Germany (4). It was planned to maintain
this body as an "all-German representation" alongside the regular
legislatures. It is to be called into session from time to time to
rouse the political consciousness of the people and to give them a chance
to express their opinions.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ACCINCY 25X1 **⊶**3≈ b. The Soviet Zone representation was based on a special distribution key according to organizational membership and domicile 25X1 All parties and mass organizations were requested to send delegates. LDP was especially urged to send industrialists, business men, craftsmen, professors, and especially ministers to the congress. c. Of the Mest German delegates, only 10 percent were to be acknowledged members of the KPD, in order to impress the population of Mest Germany with the fact that the congress is not under Communist tutelage. 13. Fritz Otto, one of the principal functionaries of the National Front, recently stated that propaganda work in West Derlin and Western Germany would have to be intensified. Individual canvassing would have to be replaced by group recruiting. The approach will have to be a great deal better than that of the 25X1 KPD. The "sledge-hammer" method has failed completely. 25X1 14. Hans Seigewasser, deputy chief of the National Front, also referred to the coming propaganda campaign in West Germany. He spoke principally of the ideological work to be done, but let it be known that the powers that be would not hesitate to order "revolutionary measures" to reach their goal, if need be 15. 25X1 Milhelm Koenen, chairman of the National Front, has published six propaganda leaflets in the last few weeks: The Dackground to the American Mar-threat, 37 pages. b. Hiroshima Jarming, 50 pages, many illustrations. The Law of Labor, 36 pages. d. The Dulwark of the Nation (material for speakers), 32 pages. e. The Powers of Peace are Stronger, 16 pages, illustrated. For the Prohibition of Atomic Weapons, Ten Objections, Ten Answers, 4 pages, (collection of signatures for the Stockholm Appeal). Comments: 25X1 An earlier report fixes the number of council members at 65. According to HICOG report cited above, the IDP was allotted nine scats.

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- The described change of personnel so closely resembles a personnel change in the LDP party organization, involving the same personalities, offices and functions, that the possibility of a confusion by source between the two cannot be disregarded.
- The report states 3000 "delegates" and divides them 1200 and 1800. The distribution key, however, accounts for 1500 delegates and 1200 "guests" from the DDR in addition to 1800 "Jest Germans".
- The Deutsche Notenbank is the institution responsible for the issuance of DDR currency.